

Dear Sir/Madame,

It is my pleasure and honor to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Kevin McCurdy for the Commissioner at the Department of Finance (DOF).

In my current role as Chief Financial Officer and VP of Operations for Adler University, I am responsible for the fiscal stewardship of a multi-national institution that has been graduating socially responsible practitioners for nearly 70 years. I had the pleasure of partnering with Kevin at Adler University where he directly reported to me and served as the Associated Vice President of Financial Planning and Budgeting. During our 1.5 years together, I entrusted Kevin with myriad responsibilities and he played a critical role in leading the organization during tough economic times and brought ease, leadership, and innovation to help the University navigate to a safe economic landing.

Kevin's ability to balance optimism with realism was critical as it allowed the University to grow responsibly while ensuring our liquidity and cash position remained strong and nimble. Kevin also played a huge role in building a bridge between operations and finance. This bridge created an environment of trust and collaboration that was largely missing before his arrival. Kevin also played a large role in building out the finance and technology infrastructure which allowed the University to leverage technology and improved processes to reduce spend, create tighter controls, and increase productivity and optimization of the entire finance division across the U.S and Canadian campuses. Kevin demonstrated a high desire to combine qualitative and quantitative analytics to build out long term planning models which further stabilized the foundation of the University.

Kevin's ability to connect with people, listen, and translate the language of finance to non-finance speakers was a large catalyst for our organization transforming into a high network of acute business professionals. His eagerness to learn and build connections with stakeholders regardless of title or tenure was above and beyond what I have experienced during my career. People mattered more than meeting a quota. This approach resulted in strong improvements in engagement scores and retention of departmental staff.

My confidence in Kevin's abilities to lead the Government of the Virgin Islands (GVI) is without doubt. I have experienced firsthand how Kevin can enter an environment and build a foundation that becomes independent of the person that builds it. His ability to see value in people is second-to-none. His ability to see trends before they fully materialize is an advantage that the GVI will benefit from tenfold.

With full conviction, I recommend Mr. Kevin McCurdy as the next Commissioner of Finance for the GVI.

If I can answer any questions or provide more context then please feel to contact me at 312-479-3736 or imerra1@gmail.com

Thank You,


Irfan Merrani

CFO, VP of Operations, Adler University